



SOUTH ASIA: The return of monsoon showers brought much-needed relief from dryness and heat to southern and west-central India. Locally heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) covered a broad area from Gujarat and western Madhya Pradesh southward through Andhra Pradesh, benefiting oilseeds (especially groundnuts), cotton, coarse grains, and sugarcane. Temperatures returned to more seasonable levels with the rainfall. Elsewhere, locally heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) continued over sections of eastern India and Bangladesh, causing additional flooding. Generally drier weather returned to north-central India and neighboring sections of Pakistan. In early July, a vigorous monsoon circulation brought near- to above-normal rainfall to most Indian crop areas, improving moisture levels for summer crop germination and establishment. However, the area of greatest rainfall rapidly shifted away from the south and west. As a result, conditions had become too dry by month's end for normal development of rainfed crops over a broad area stretching from Gujarat to southern Andhra Pradesh. In contrast, the soybean belt (western Madhya Pradesh), India's northern Plain, and the eastern rice region continued to receive frequent rainfall during the latter half of the month. Monsoon rains eventually overspread Pakistan's northern rice and cotton areas. July temperatures generally averaged near normal across the region, although unseasonable heat (highs in the upper 30's degrees C) developed over the driest portions of western and southern India by month's end.